

The Catholic COURIER

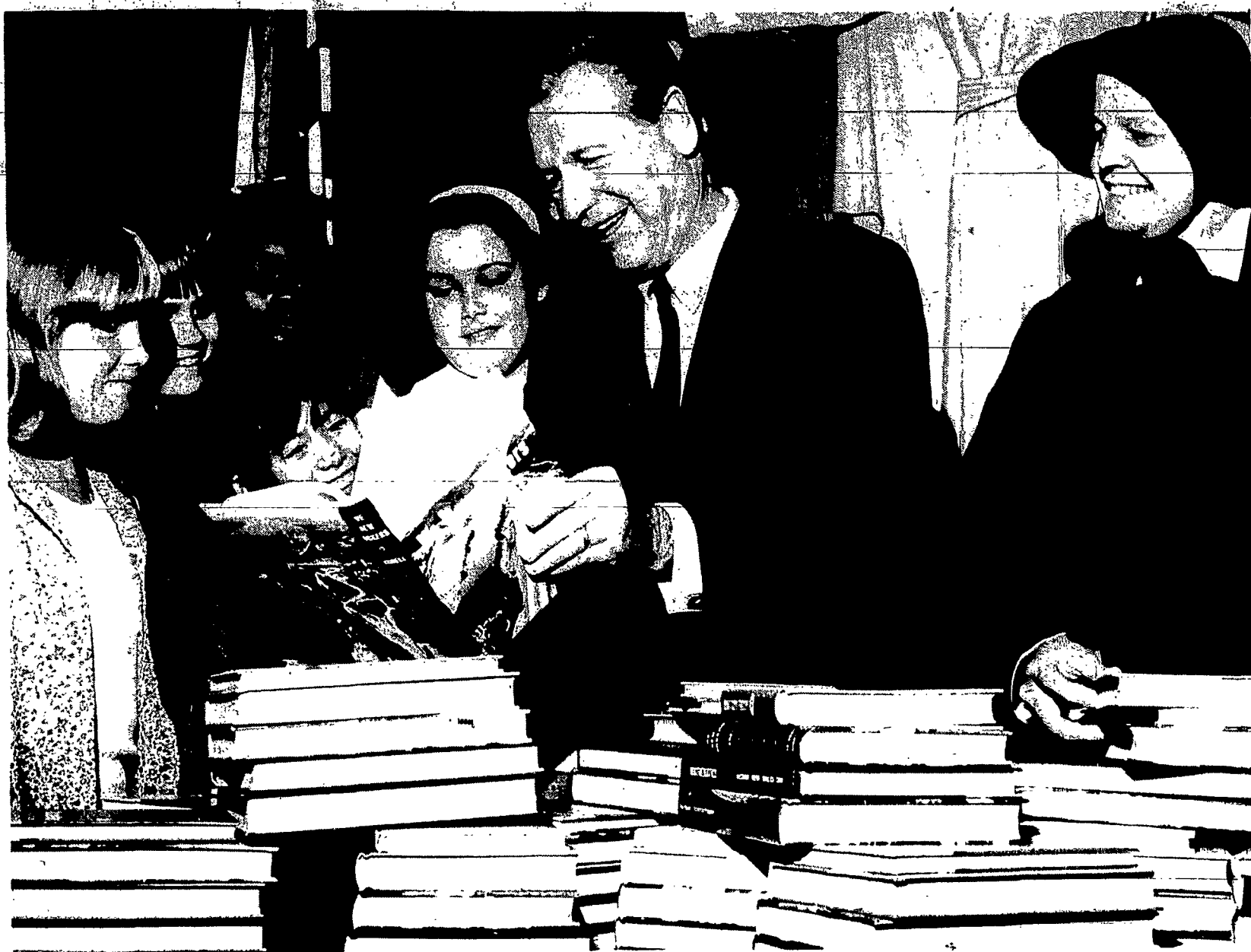
THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

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Governor Rockefeller received an excited "thank you" when he paid a surprise visit to St. Peter's School in Yonkers. Sister Marie Louis, principal, and a group of students welcomed the Governor, who signed the law which provides textbooks to children in grades 7 to 12.

School Justice Hopes on Rise

Hopes to get rid of the biased Blaine Amendment from the New York State Constitution were heightened this week.

Denominational lines melted with increasing frequency as more links were forged to assure all school children a fair share of taxpayer benefits.

Aquinas Institute announced that a Lutheran minister will speak at the school Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 8:15 p.m.

His talk, open to the public, is titled, "Do You Hear the Bells Ringing?"

The clergyman is 37-year old Pastor Norbert E. Kabelitz of Oklahoma City. He is a national officer of the Citizens for Educational Freedom (CEF).

CEF, a non-denominational organization whose motto is "A Fair Share for Every Child," reports a growing membership throughout New York State as parents become more aware of the discriminatory aspects written into the state constitution close to a century ago.

An informational meeting about CEF goals and techniques will be held at the Mark Twain Hotel also Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 8 p.m. William H. Slavik of the State College at Geneseo will be the speaker. Residents of Elmira, Corning, Ithaca, Bath, Waverly—the 48th senatorial district—are expected to attend in sizeable numbers.

Chief target of CEF activity at this time is to assure revision of the state constitution next spring by eliminating the 1894 Blaine Amendment which bans tax-paid aid to pupils which may prove beneficial "directly or indirectly" to church-related schools.

Most recent victim of the amendment was a plan to provide pupils in grades 7 through 12 with textbooks, regardless of the school they attended.

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PASTOR KABELITZ Lutheran at Aquinas

The law was ruled unconstitutional but is now under appeal so the textbooks were provided pupils pending the higher court's ruling.

"The 1500 Catholic patients of the Rochester State Hospital will have a Chapel on the Hospital grounds."

This is the promise of John Dale who is acting as the chairman of a drive to build the Chapel of Saint Jude on a site provided by the State at the Hospital.

"Instead of a gymnasium and all-purpose hall used once a week, they will have every day readily at hand and for their needs, the sanctuary, the tabernacle, the Real Presence of the Blessed Sacrament to bring them the solace, comfort and hope which only religion can bring. We feel certain that every Catholic in the seven-county area served so long by the Hospital shares this feeling and need," Dale said.

Plans were announced simultaneously this week by the Chancery and the organization of businessmen, headed by Dale, that the State had granted use of the site on Elmwood Avenue for the construction of a Catholic Chapel. The site is located some 400 feet back from the road to the west of, and parallel with, the tall Medical-Surgical Building. The site is excellent, centrally located and con-

ANDREW CELLI, a Democratic candidate to the constitutional convention, told a preliminary committee hearing at Buffalo this week that the present law "deprives our citizens of their civil rights and relegates them to a second-class educational citizenship." He has pledged himself to work for the appeal of the amendment.

OTHER CANDIDATES to the convention are currently being polled by CEF leaders to learn their position on the controversial amendment.

An interesting and obviously sad aspect of present CEF recruitment efforts is this: Response has been negligible in the affluent suburbs where parents prefer to pay for books for their youngsters in parochial schools—since the state allotment is only \$15 per pupil—rather than spend their time for a CEF organizational meeting.

What to them is not much more than small change is, of course, for the less affluent, particularly those with several children in school, a costly burden.

Such a response puts a question mark on the totality of Christianity in those people.

—Father Henry A. Atwell

Educate Ourselves To Peace

Vatican City — (RNS) — Many thousands gathered in St. Peter's Square to hear Pope Paul VI proclaim that while peace is "extremely difficult" to attain, it is "not impossible."

The occasion was an open-air Mass for Peace on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica. During the service the pontiff declared that "all of us must educate ourselves for peace" and eventually "create peace in the political world . . . and establish it in the behavior of a civilized people."

Leading in the recitation of special prayers for peace, the Pope said: "We will pray for peace, especially in the Far East, a peace that will not be imposed by treachery or by force, but by negotiation conducted with honor and humanity."

"Nor," he added, "will we forget in our prayers those other places in the world where

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Chapel to be Built at Rochester State Hospital

venient to all, accessible from every direction.

The Chapel will bear the name of "Chapel of Saint Jude," popularly and traditionally known as the "Saint of the Im-

possible." Devotion to Saint Jude is widespread among the patients at the Hospital. The Chapel planned will seat 400 people with every effort being made to provide an atmosphere which is open, warm and help-

ful to all. Peace of soul and peace of mind are very close to each other, Dale said.

He announced that a campaign will be conducted to raise a minimum amount of \$300,000,

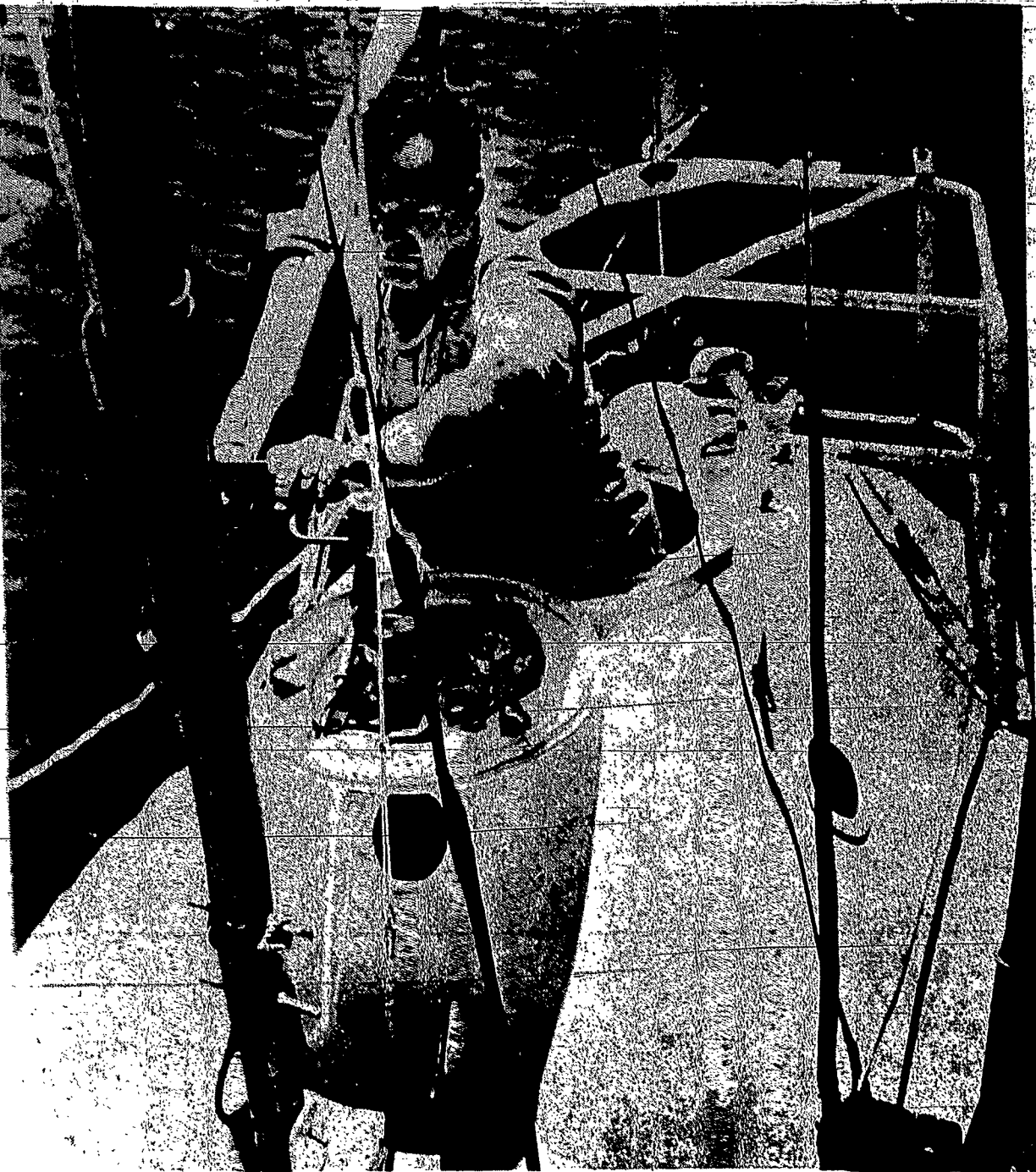
with construction of the Chapel to start in the spring. The drive is scheduled to open on the Feast of Saint Jude, Oct. 28, with Bishop Kearney offering

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John Dale and Father James Callan chart plans for Catholic chapel at Rochester State Hospital. Advisers on

project include Gerald Willmot, Robert Benedict, Patrick McCormack and John Nothnagle.



William Verity traced possible journey of Irish monks to America a thousand years before Columbus. Nonetheless next Wednesday, Oct. 12, will still be Columbus Day.

Maybe We Should Organize the Knights of St. Brendan Irish Monks Beat Columbus?

"Some modern scholars claim that Irish monks were the first white men to set foot on the American mainland, and some even say it may yet be proved that St. Brendan of Clonfert, one of Ireland's three most famous saints, was the first discoverer of America"—1966 National Catholic Almanac

Ft. Lauderdale — (CFF) — Last year, Yale University celebrated Columbus Day by announcing it had a map that proved Norsemen had sailed to North America 500 years before Columbus. The year, the proprietor of a boat-repair shop has scored one for St. Brendan, who is thought by some to have come to America 1,000 years before the man from Genoa.

William Verity, who is a sailing encyclopedia on the legend

of St. Brendan, this summer made a solo voyage from Florida to Ireland in a 12-foot wooden sloop. His purpose: "to show that ancient man was capable of making a voyage from America to Europe and to put the St. Brendan legend in working order."

Down through the centuries, stories have been told of St. Brendan's travels, which earned him the name "Brendan the Navigator" and made him patron saint of sailors. In the early part of the sixth century, he and some of his monks are said to have set sail in quest of a legendary "Isle of the Blessed." One popular account has him going south through the Azores, then west to the Sargasso Sea, where he was caught up in a current that took him right back to where he started. Then, taking a northerly route, he sailed across to Newfoundland, then down to the New England area and finally due south to the Bahamas and from there, west to Florida.

"I feel they landed in St. Augustine about 525 A.D.," says Verity, who is 40 and describes himself as an "amateur anthropologist." The Ft. Lauderdale resident takes the St. Brendan story a step farther and suggests that St. Brendan—or at least some of his monks—crossed the Gulf of Mexico to Vera Cruz.

"In histories of the Mayan civilization, there is mention of 'fair-complected bearded gods' who led a mass migration from Mexico to Peru about 500 A.D. My theory is that they were monks of St. Brendan's order," Verity said.

His Gulf trip, begun in March of 1965, was the topic of a paper he delivered to the Florida Anthropological Society, of which he is a member. It also "set the stage for the Florida to Ireland trip."

Verity made the 4,500-mile Atlantic voyage in 65 days, arriving in County Kerry, not far from the town of Tralee, where St. Brendan is said to have been born. He also journeyed up Mount Brendan to the ruins of an oratory built by the saint and while in Ireland gathered more material "to put the entire legend together. He then brought back the sloop by ship.

What impresses Verity most about the legend is the similarity between St. Brendan's writings about his voyages (which Butler's "Lives of the Saints" dismisses as "a fiction") and what modern man can pinpoint on the map.

"St. Brendan's writings describe their terror when they were caught in a mass of thick, curdled sea and a stretch of sea weed— which everyone now knows is the Sargasso Sea," Verity said. "And in an account of their attempt to land on an island where they were frightened away by monsters with cat-like heads, eyes the colour of a bronze cauldron, fuzzy pelt, bear's tusks and heavy, spotted bellies." These were obviously walruses."

He also observed that old "bee-hive structures" found in New England are similar to the bee-hive cells built in Ireland by St. Brendan's monks.

But perhaps the most interesting part of the St. Brendan story, Verity says, involves Christopher Columbus himself.

"Columbus was a great student of St. Brendan's," Verity said. He cited reports that Columbus visited Galway prior to his voyage, having heard stories in Spain about the sixteenth-century travels of St. Brendan. In Galway, Columbus is believed to have had access to manuscripts describing the saint's several voyages.

"I believe Columbus knew exactly where he was when he reached America," Verity commented. "I believe he knew he wasn't in India. But he had promised Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain—that he would find a route to India—so naturally he would tell them the natives he brought back were Indians." (Catholic Press Features)

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